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MLGPA News (July 1998)

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MLGPA News

Politics, Education, Outreach

P.O. Box 232, Hallowell, ME 04347-0232

July 1998

Many Incumbents Survive Primary Election

Here is an update of some of the primary races MLGPA was following closely. In House District 86 (Lewiston), Rep. Richard Mailhot beat challenger (and former legislator) Roger Pouliet by a 2-1 margin. Last spring Dick Mailhot voted for LD 1116, An Act to Prevent Discrimination, and more recently refused to endorse a partial birth abortion ban. As Mailhot eloquently stated, "I refuse to vote to discriminate against anyone... now and in the future." Rep. Dick Mailhot is an important legislator to have in Augusta as we develop the next steps to attaining civil rights. In November, he will be up against GOP Gary Adams, an anti-gay and anti-choice candidate. MLGPA thanks all our members who supported Rep. Mailhot's primary campaign, both financially and through volunteer efforts. We ask that you please offer your support again as we approach the general election. Rep. Mailhot can be contacted at 783-0841.

In Senate District 31 (Scarborough, Saco, OOB), Senator Peggy Pendleton beat challenger Arthur St. Hilaire by a 59-41% margin. Senator Pendleton is also a supporter of LD 1116 and an important person to have in Augusta. Her opponent, St. Hilaire, was a Republican until 1996, when he switched his party affiliation to unenrolled. He then enrolled as a Democrat in February 1998 to run against Senator Pendleton. Peggy Pendleton will be running against conservative Republican Ted Poirier in the November general election. If you live in the Scarborough, Saco or Old Orchard Beach areas, please do whatever you can to help Senator Pendleton's race. She can be contacted at 883-5414.

Finally, Rep. Michael Quint of House District 33 in Portland won his race over challenger and former legislator Herb Adams. MLGPA struggled over its decision to endorse incumbent Michael Quint over Herb Adams. As a legislator, Adams was an ardent supporter of the anti-discrimination bill, co-sponsoring it during one particular session. He was also an active participant in the Maine Won't Discriminate campaign, and personally gathered 100 absentee ballots. Herb Adams is a true friend of the LGBT movement and we honor him for his outspoken support and hard work on behalf of LGBT Mainers. We hope Herb will continue to pursue his political ambitions.

Rep. Michael Quint has done an excellent job as a first term legislator. He emerged as a conscientious, hard-working and articulate champion of the people of District

33, especially the economically disadvantaged, seniors and the mentally ill. He is an outstanding legislative incumbent who earned reelection. MLGPA is especially proud of Michael for his courageous leadership as the only openly gay member of the Maine Legislature. Michael demonstrates daily that gay people are valuable, productive citizens and sometimes extraordinary civic leaders. He is a worthy role model for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered youth who too often live in fear of discrimination and societal scorn. For these reasons, MLGPA voted to endorse Rep. Michael Quint for reelection. He has no opponent in the November general election.

Maine Rural Network Offers Workshops

As we reported a couple of months ago, a new group focusing on rural organizing has emerged since the February 10 vote. The Maine Rural Network (MRN), headed up by Naomi Falcone, was born out of a desire to create a network among rural groups and existing organizations in order to form a political base and work toward social justice for everyone.

MRN is modeled on the Oregon Rural Organizing Project and Marcy Westerling, its founder, is coming to Maine to lead workshops across the state, June 26-28. The workshops will begin the establishment of a rural network in Maine. The schedule for the workshops is as follows:

- June 26 Lewiston, 6:30-9:30 pm
Bates College, Chase Lounge
56 Campus Ave.
- June 27 Presque Isle, 4-7 pm
U/Maine Presque Isle (UMPI)
105 Folsom
- June 28 Ellsworth, 2-5 pm
UU Church
111 Court Street (top of Bridge Hill)

Please preregister for the workshops by contacting: Naomi Falcone, 51 Shore Rd, Standish, ME 04084, 642-2015 or e-mail: nomad@watchic.net. Workshops are free but donations are gladly accepted to defray costs.

MLGPA

Politics, Education,
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Maine Diversity Alliance Elects Board of Directors

The Maine Diversity Alliance (MDA), the 501c3 non-profit offshoot of MLGPA, elected its first Board of Directors on May 20, 1998. The new Board will establish policies for MDA and will be responsible for fundraising and grant writing. One of the primary goals of the Maine Diversity Alliance will be to support the work of existing LGBT organizations which need additional resources in order to accomplish their goals and objectives.

According to the by-laws, the Board of Directors can consist of up to 21 people. Ten people were elected on May 20. Eleven seats remain and MDA's goal is

to have as diverse a Board as possible with representation from various nationalities/cultures and geographic locations across the state. Elected were: Steve Addario, Jerry Banner, Willow Femmechild, David Gerrity, Jennifer Hoopes, Dal Maxwell, Sam Sherman, Betsy Smith, Dan Stevens and Del Wilson.

Anyone interested in being involved is welcome. The next meeting of the Maine Diversity Alliance is Tuesday, May 23, 6:30 - 8:30 pm, at the Peace and Justice Center, 1 Pleasant Street, 2nd floor. For more information, call MDA at 761-3732.

Calendar of Events

June 23—Maine Diversity Alliance Board meeting, 6:30-8:30pm, 1 Pleasant Street, 2nd floor, Portland. Contact 761-3732 for more information.

June 24—MLGPA Legislative Committee Meeting, 6-8pm, Maine Education Association building (Community Drive), Augusta. All are welcome.

June 26, 27, 28—Maine Rural Network Workshops, Friday (6:30-9:30pm) in Lewiston, Saturday (4-7pm) in Presque Isle, Sunday (2-5pm) in Ellsworth. See inside newsletter for detail.

July 7—MLGPA Legislative Committee Meeting, 6-8pm, Maine Education Association building (Community Drive), Augusta. All are welcome.

July 11—Bangor Pride! For more information contact Jim at 942-7681.

July 16—MLGPA Board Meeting, 6-9pm, Maine Education Association building (Community Drive), Augusta. All are welcome.

July 22—MLGPA Legislative Committee Meeting, 6-8pm, Maine Education Association building (Community Drive), Augusta. All are welcome.

August 8—AIDS Coalition of Lewiston-Auburn's Ride for Life! An all-day bike (motorcycle) run to benefit AIDS prevention. For more information contact ACLA at 786-4697 or e-mail to <acla@maine.com>

August 19-26—Watershed Workshop for People with AIDS, an eight day residency workshop for people who are HIV positive. For more information contact Program Coordinator, Lynn Duryea, PO Box 7635, Portland, 04412, 767-7113.

September 17-21—Watershed Workshop for People with AIDS, a five-day reunion session. For more information contact Program Coordinator, Lynn Duryea, PO Box 7635, Portland, 04412, 767-7113.

*If you have any social,
educational or political events
in your area and would like
a hand organizing,
please call us!
We can help!*